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Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments: approval of the appointment of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Approval of the appointment of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, decided to create the post of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Assembly also decided that the High Commissioner for Human rights should:

(a) Be a person of high moral standing and personal integrity and possess expertise, including in the field of human rights, and the general knowledge and understanding of diverse cultures necessary for impartial, objective, non-selective and effective performance of the duties of the High Commissioner;

(b) Be appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and approved by the General Assembly, with due regard to geographical rotation, and have a fixed term of four years with a possibility of one renewal for another fixed term of four years;

(c) Be of the rank of Under-Secretary-General.

2. On 17 June 1997, the General Assembly approved the proposal of the Secretary-General that Mrs. Mary Robinson (Ireland) be appointed United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for a fixed term of four years. Mrs. Robinson's term of office will expire on 11 September 2001.

3. In the light of the above provisions, the Secretary-General proposes to extend the appointment of Mrs. Mary Robinson as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for a period of one year, namely, from 12 September 2001 to 11 September 2002.

4. The Secretary-General trusts that the General Assembly will approve this extension.

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